

...Let's Go

By LARRY MACARAY

The Vincent Price Collection is coming to Torrance. So much publicity and fanfare has preceded this unorthodox venture into the Fine Arts by Sears, Roebuck & Co. By persuading a recognized authority such as Vincent Price to spearhead the program, the creators of the collection were on the right track. The entire collection is a huge fluctuating array of prints, watercolors, and oils by Renaissance masters as well as local contemporaries. It has to be a group of wide-ranged works of art in order to interest the general public.

THE LOCAL opening of the Vincent Price Collection will be on Tuesday, July 9, at the Torrance Sears store. I have been invited to preview the works at my convenience, so I'll probably go next week and look them over and maybe Bill Robinson will go with me to take a few photos. Will devote the column on Sunday, July 7, to the show. I leave for Europe on July 8 so I'm sure to miss the opening.

Friday I was a guest of the Northrop plant in Hawthorne for lunch and mainly to judge the 15th annual Northrop Art Exhibit. Will have a great deal to say about the show and the winners next Sunday.

HAD A CALL from Mrs. Veronika Krasting of Orange, Calif., this week concerning a painting that she had brought to this country from Europe in 1953. It seems the painting is apparently by Lodovico Caracci (1551-1619) and she doesn't know where to go to show it to the people who may be interested in such a painting. She recently had the painting restored by Mr. Turner of Whittier and he attested to the authenticity of the painting. It had been restored in Europe in 1953 but needed additional work here in the U. S.

TALK OF THE WORLD

MOSCOW—What do you do if you are a factory manager in Moscow and you are lagging behind the plan because you can't get machinery and spare parts? Officially, you go to the appropriate supply organization and tell them your problem. Officially, they come up with the machinery you want to meet the plan.

Life, in fact, is not always like this in the Soviet Union today. Despite impressive Soviet achievements, red tape is clogging certain industrial sections and threatening the livelihood of factory managers who fail to meet their plans.

A Soviet newspaper, Lenin Banner, spotlighted the problem recently for Moscovites in an article relating a tragic tale of relatively honest factory managers shortly to stand up in court on charges of giving bribes.

The case will involve 50 accused. There will be 17 volumes of evidence and 128 witnesses.

One of those accused will be Valentin Ilyukhin, manager of a Moscow wool factory. He faced severe production losses because he lacked a crane. He tried the official channels and was told his request was impossible—no cranes were available.

skin tones are cool and powerful and the hands are masterfully done.

The painting has been appraised but very few private parties would or could have a painting of this value or subject matter in their homes. Probably a museum or a church organization would be best suited. In any case, I liked Mr. and Mrs. Krasting and I liked the painting, so I'll see what I can turn up for them either here in the United States or in Europe.

NEXT SUNDAY, June 16, I'm having a Home Art Show at my home in Anaheim. There will be lithographs, watercolors, drawings, and oil paintings available in case you are interested in obtaining an original work of art for your home or office or perhaps you might be starting an art collection. The paintings will be up from 12 noon until 7 p.m. and I hope to have a hundred or so on view. When you get to Anaheim, call me at KEystone 5-5595 and I'll give you directions.

Also happen to have the art collection from Barcelona, Spain, at home now. This is the show that was at the Long Beach Museum of Art in April. I'm repainting all of the frames, so I can repack them and send them off to Sacramento the latter part of June.

HAD TO APPLY for a new passport last week as my old one expired in March of this year. Only took me 10 minutes for the entire transaction (I've heard of long lines, but I really went at a good time) and will take about 10 days to receive. I'm glad to know that they'll also send me back my old one—it's "stamped" and "written in" all over in so many languages that I'll enjoy keeping it.

Also applied for and received my international driver's license at the Auto Club. It's good in practically every country but the United States. They say that if you can drive in Southern California successfully (whatever that means), you can drive anywhere—but Rome and Paris are unbelievable with the number of almost "sommambulist" drivers, especially the taxi drivers.

Oh well, how many people can say that they have fallen asleep and have crashed into the Eiffel Tower or were involved with a hit-and-run horse and carriage in Florence?

country. Everything was possible—if the bribe was sufficient.

As Lenin Banner showed, the forms of bribery in contemporary Soviet society are varied and complex, and sometimes honest men are involved, not to line their pockets, but for the good of all.

In another case about to come before the courts all the accused were thoroughly dishonest. It involved officials of the Leningrad "Mineral Water Trust" and certain shop managers to whom the alcoholic and soft drinks were delivered.

The shopkeepers cheated customers by adding water to the drinks, mixing expensive wines with cheaper ones, giving incorrect change and selling short. Then they bribed the inspectors of the "Mineral Water Trust" to keep silent.

Soviet police and judges are not turning a blind eye to bribery. A bitter war is being waged. Under a decree introduced a year ago, bribe-taking became an offense carrying the death penalty and stiff prison sentences.

And judges are enforcing the letter of the law. Among many recent published cases was one involving the former chief of a supply depot at Gorki, about 225 miles east of Moscow. He took bribes totaling more than \$6,000. And was sentenced to death by shooting.

Russians are now well aware that the full severity of Soviet law will be enforced against them for bribery, described in an official decree as a "shameful, disgusting survival of the past, left by capitalism as an inheritance to Communist society."

A Closer Look

By Ernest Kreiling

HOLLYWOOD — Evaluations of the television season are not only appropriate at this juncture, they are inevitable. They serve as an index to things past, provide focus to what has preoccupied us for the last nine months, and offer a base against which to compare the coming season.

To many people such serious concern with television seems the labor of idiots, I am aware. After all, they claim, television is simply fun and games and doesn't qualify to be taken seriously as do movies, theater,

books, music and other adult arts.

THIS IS NOT true, however, regardless of how pointless, bland, and forgettable the regular weekly television fare may seem. If television doesn't qualify for serious scrutiny on the basis of its quality and cultural impact, it does qualify on the basis of its very ubiquity and its domination of the nation's leisure time. As long as the average American family has a TV set turned on for five hours a day it deserves to be

studied, prodded, analyzed, praised, criticized, damned and blessed by all and sundry. More vigorous and unrelenting criticism can have nothing but a salutary effect.

What kind of a TV season has it been? To me the singular fact of the season has been revealed by the Emmy Awards and the fact that ten of them were repeats, that is, ten awards were given to the same program or individual as last year. Two or three repeats in the 30 categories is somewhat more typical of the past.

THIS CAN signify one of two principal things. Many of last year's awards were such outstanding achievements that the accomplishments endure. Or it can mean that this year's en-

tries were especially unimaginative, that they represented little new thinking, originality, or creativity. My guess is that television was afflicted with an acute case of the status quo this year, although the winners, including the repeaters, were indeed deserving.

If this strikes you as contradictory, keep in mind that Broadway produces about 50 hours of entertainment a season, the movies about 700 hours, the three television networks about 18,000 hours. There can be little doubt but that television has produced more hours of culture, enrichment, information and meaningful entertainment than all of the other media combined.

Television criticism would be a more influential voice to-

day if the writers kept this more in mind.

HERETWITH ARE some random ruminations regarding the recent Emmy Awards and television today.

Item: The Defenders, which won five awards this year, received four last year. The new one was for film editing, which, ironically, was presented the day following one of the most inept, even amateurish jobs of film editing ever seen on a network program. Saturday evening's installment, The Brother Killers, contained two or three enormous errors in editing, such monumental mistakes that the viewer consciously realized someone had spliced some of the film together in the wrong sequence.

Item: I still find it interesting that no one admits liking the Beverly Hillsbillies. I seldom hear anyone say they don't like it—just that they don't like it. The voting of the Television Academy revealed the same reluctance to admit, even privately on a ballot, that they enjoyed it, because they too ignored it conspicuously. People probably reacted the same way years ago when Lil Abner hit the comic pages and before it became a respectable institution.

"Multiple sclerosis is the greatest cause of chronic disability among young adults," reports Dr. H. Houston Merritt, dean of the medical faculty at New York's Columbia University.

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